



NEWSLETTER

March, 1979.

Presidential Message.

Most of you by this stage will have received the programme for our 'year of the child' Convention in Adelaide. Please read it carefully, realise its educational potential for you, and mark off your appointment books. On the federal front, we are sending a delegate and an observer to the May meeting of the affiliated societies with the A.D.A. We have included in the agenda items to be discussed at this meeting 'Continuing A.D.A. policy on the dental therapist scheme'. Hopefully by the time of our next newsletter, I will be able to present a critical assessment of this policy from the point of view of its effect on our society and all its diversified members.

Watch this space!  
See you in Adelaide.

JOHN KEYS

From the Federal Secretary's Notebook.

1. There is to be a meeting of the ADA Federal Executive and the Affiliated Societies in Sydney on Friday 25th May, 1979. Our representative will be our Vice President, Dr. Kevin Allen, and our ADA Liaison Officer, Dr. Tom Mackay. The ADA has listed the following agenda items:

- Principles of Affiliation
- Australian Dental Journal
- Relationships between the affiliates and the ADA
- Third party programmes and rebates for specialist fees.
- Negotiations with third parties.
- Honorary members and associate members of affiliates.
- Liaison Officers.
- Participation in congresses.

If Branches have points that they wish or think our representatives should be made aware of, please forward these to the Federal Secretary (A.S.D.C.). Likewise, any other items that Branches would like to see on the agenda should be directed to the Federal Secretary.

2. The Editor of the Australian Dental Journal, Dr. Harris, has advised that the October 1979 edition of the Journal will be devoted to papers on various aspects of Dentistry for Children. He plans to contact likely contributors in the near future.

3. The Federal Secretariat of the A.D.A. is compiling their 1978-79 Calendar of Events and require to have information on any possible entries from our Society by the end of March. If there are any events State Branches would like to see included, please forward this information to the A.S.D.C. Federal Secretary.

ALISTAIR DEVLIN

Queensland Branch.

At our last branch meeting our Guest Speaker was Dr. J.C. Keys. He spoke at length on the new Intermediate Restorative Materials and other Temporary Restorative Materials. He accompanied his talk with slides. Further to his evening talk he reported the results of some of his work done on pulpotomy using Caustinerf predosed pellets (containing para-chlorophenol and paraformaldehyde). Dr. Keys had presented an earlier lecture during our A.S.D.C. seminar held in Toowoomba, Queensland, in September, 1978.

The second item of interest is our next meeting to be held on the first Monday in April. Our guest speaker will be Dr. David Connel, Federal President of Australian Society of Anaesthetists. Members and guests will be eager to hear Dr. Connel speak on General Anaesthetics, its monitoring and control as well as its effects on dental personnel.

A.H. SAHU KHAN

#### New South Wales Branch

A business meeting was held on 13th February, at Sydney University. One item on the agenda was the election of a sub-committee to plan for and arrange a weekend seminar next year in Sydney. It is anticipated that this will be in April but details will be given in later newsletters as well as being circularised later this year.

Congratulations were extended to our member, Dr. William Winspear, on his success on gaining the MDS. Bill is presently studying for his Master of Health Planning degree at N.S.W. University and later in the year hopes to take up a post at Harvard University, U.S.A.

The N.S.W. Branch has been involved in a project sponsored by 2CBA, a new FM radio station soon to come to air in Sydney. As part of their community service broadcasts we have been invited to nominate a spokesman who will present several five minute talks on children's dentistry.

TOM MACKAY

#### Western Australian Branch.

The Branch will be meeting next on 18th April. At this meeting, we will be addressed by Perth Oral Surgeon, Dr. Brian Henderson. He will be reviewing current methods on the surgical exposure of unerupted teeth, as well as a look at some soft tissue surgical methods with particular application to children.

The June meeting will be considering the question of early orthodontics, while the August meeting will be considering the delivery of dental care to children, with the obvious changes that have occurred in this, and with a discussion on possible future changes.

ALISTAIR DEVLIN

#### Victorian Branch.

Our programme for this year is already under way with one Dinner Meeting having been held with another three planned for the rest of the year. At all of these meetings we have adopted the idea of a so-called 'mini-talk' to precede the address of the Guest Speaker. At our first meeting on March 1st, we were treated to a presentation of the simplified and uniform application of rubber dam as devised and used in the School Dental Service. This was given by two field dental therapists, Mrs. Sally Haines and Mrs. Diane Clements, who were amongst the first graduates of the still fairly new Melbourne School of Dental Therapy. They were made to feel most welcome and we hope to see many more auxiliaries along at our meetings as guests. Our Principal Guest Speaker for that evening was Miss Jean Adamson, Director of the Lady Gowrie Child Development Centre in Melbourne, who in her talk outlined the operation and objectives of this internationally recognized centre, along with those established in the other states in promoting public and professional awareness in developmental programmes for children, of particular relevance in this the International Year of the Child.

Our other Dinner Meetings are on Thursdays, May 3rd, July 5th and Sept. 6th, when we will have a dietitian, a speech pathologist, and the Victorian Children's State Librarian, in that order, as our Guest Speakers, together with 'mini-speakers' both from within and outside the Society. At our next meeting a representative from the Victorian Dairy Institute Authority will be discussing 'Project Munch', as devised for primary school children in Victoria in their health education classes. She will be followed by Melbourne dentist Dr. John Matthews talking on the current dental health education programme for secondary school children in this state.

Following the success of our 'Community Dentistry' Day last year, we are

running as a sequel a 'Team Dentistry' Day on Monday June 11th, again at the Therapy School. Both interstate and local speakers have been invited to speak, including Dr. Don Worley from Adelaide, whose particular interest is dental ergonomics, with emphasis on training and utilization of chairside assistants. This meeting promises to be an important feature in our year's programme, and we are looking forward to another strong attendance of dentists from many fields together with ancillaries.

The three-day participating course in Child Dental Health will again be run this year by the Department of Conservative Dentistry with members of this Society being involved in its presentation.

As a Society also, we have been invited as guests at the A.D.A. South-Western Group's Annual Convention Day on Saturday April 28th at the Victorian provincial city of Warrnambool, during which members will be presenting a day's lecture programme. The week-end is always a popular event and well attended.

There is much interest in the forthcoming A.S.D.C. 3rd Biennial Convention in Adelaide at which Professor Barber will be lecturing, and it is hoped that Victorian support will be strong.

Finally, membership remains stronger than ever, and we look forward to an exciting and busy year ahead.

JOHN WILDE

#### Tasmanian Branch

Eleven members attended a business meeting and luncheon at 'St. Andrew's Inn' in the Midlands of the state on Sunday 25th February. Members were reluctant to leave the dining room for the formal meeting, after having partaken of a delightful menu which included such delicacies as Quail, Jugged Hare and Jellied Eel.

Frank Wimmer, our Federal Councillor, provided the meeting with a comprehensive report of the Council Meeting held last November.

Our meeting necessarily took the form of a business meeting as several important items had to be dealt with. On the clinical side, Dr. Felix Goldschmeid has agreed to be our Guest Lecturer at the next meeting which will be held at the Scotch Thistle Inn, Ross on Sunday 29th April. The membership is very pleased with the idea of the Sunday luncheon meeting.

It is intended to hold a combined "Eat and Meet" with the Northern Section of the A.D.A. in Launceston in May. A firm date will be advised later.

PETER J. BOLSTER

#### South Australian Branch.

The South Australian Branch is organising the Third Clinical Convention for the Federal body in June. Professor Barber from UCLA will be the guest lecturer. His topic will be orthodontics and will include such aspects as Growth, Arch length regaining, Cross Bites, Closed Bites and Oral Habit Correction. A comprehensive social programme has also been organised, which will include a dinner to the "Jolly Swagman" in the Adelaide Hills, a buffet dinner in private homes and a day trip to Martindale Hall near Clare and a luncheon at Quelltaler Winery at Watervale. We hope that interstate members will stay longer than just for the convention to enjoy a little South Australian hospitality.

Registration forms will be posted within the next two weeks and early returns would be appreciated.

The Branch has also had its first meeting for the year. Dr. Alistair Goss, Senior Lecturer in Oral Surgery, University of Adelaide, spoke on oral surgery and more particularly on some of the pathological conditions of which to be aware.

Future meetings of the branch will be on April 30th, August 27th and October 29th. Topics to be included for 1979 will be on Cleft Palates, Money Taxes and Trusts, and possibly a talk from a Child Psychologist.

We look forward to seeing you all in June.

JOE VERCO

A.S.D.C. 3RD BIENNIAL CONVENTION

ADELAIDE, JUNE 28TH & 29TH 1979.

The plans for this meeting are well under way.

The programme will centre on a course of lectures by Professor Tom Barber, who is the Associate Dean, College of Dentistry, The University of California, Los Angeles.

It is interesting to note that while Professor Barber has presented a considerable number of scientific lectures and essays in the U.S.A., Europe, Canada, Japan and South America; this will be his first visit to Australia. He was one of the seminar speakers at the 11th Annual Pedodontic Seminar of A.S.D.C. held in Chicago last August.

Professor Barber's course is entitled 'Preventive Orthodontics and the Young Child' and is extremely comprehensive. The participants in his course will return to their dental practice with 'an increased insight as to their role in the practice of preventive orthodontics', with a greater ability to perform a meaningful clinical and laboratory examination of the dentition', with increased capability in diagnosis and treatment planning', and with an enhanced basis for continued study of the concepts presented.

The social programme has not been forgotten. There will be a conference dinner in a 'different setting', time for private entertainment, and finishing with a tour on Saturday to the Clare Valley - now rivalling the Barossa Valley for its variety and quality of wines. In the Clare Valley is 'Martindale Hall', the scene for the epic Australian film 'Picnic at Hanging Rock', and we shall be having morning tea here. Lunch will be served at the Quelltaler Winery.

Adelaide is looking forward to hosting and entertaining many interstate members of A.S.D.C. at this anticipated 'never to be forgotten' convention.

JOHN BURROW

A.D.A. CONVENTION - HOBART

FEBRUARY 17th-22nd, 1980.

February 17th-22nd, 1980, will see the first Australian Dental Association Convention ever, held in beautiful Hobart, Tasmania. A number of our members have been invited to participate and the programme will include coverage of the broadest range of dental topics.

Full day and half day courses, seminars, lectures, clinical classes, video presentations, and participation by many 'special interest societies' will comprise the four full day uninterrupted scientific programme. Early registrants will have the best choice of accommodation.

MARK OFF      FEBRUARY 17th-22nd, 1980.      HOBART, TASMANIA.

## BREAST FEEDING OF AUSTRALIAN BABIES

In view of recent uncontrolled observations in the United States of caries in infants whose mothers allowed very prolonged, demand breast feeding, current Australian studies of infant feeding are of interest. In northern Sydney suburbs the breast feeding rate of infants at six months increased from 12% to 48% between 1972 and 1977. 95% of mothers who breast-fed their babies made this decision before the birth for the following reasons: "nature is best", "maternal-infant bonding", "convenience", and encouragement by family, friends and organizations. (Lawson J.S. et al. Med. J. Aust. 1978, 2: 229-230). In another N.S.W. study 25% of infants were still being breast fed at 6 months, 79% of mothers choosing to do so initially. (Borda E.C. et al. Med. J. Aust. 1978, 2: 250-253). Figures for all Victorian Infant Welfare Centres show 24% were being breast fed at 6 months, with upper middle class mothers more likely to do so initially. (Stewart J. Med. J. Aust. 1978, 2: 533).

These reports imply that bottle feeding is decreasing. It is to be hoped that the devastating dental consequences of prolonged bottle feeding with syrups and other sweetened liquids will also decrease as breast feeding is more widely practised.

## HAZARDS OF ANAESTHETIC GASES

There is epidemiologic evidence for foetal wastage, mutagenesis and liver damage in persons exposed to operating room environments, and skilled performance may deteriorate due to waste anaesthetic gases. Despite the absence of a cause and effect relationship the N.H. & M.R.C. has adopted the following recommendations, which are neither difficult nor economically impossible.

1. It is ethically, scientifically and economically justifiable to instal, in operating rooms, scavenging equipment of proper construction and reasonably uniform design as soon as possible.

2. A monitoring programme, appropriate to the case load and size of the institution should also be adopted.
3. Pregnant women should be informed that there may be a hazard to their pregnancy in the operating theatre environment, and be entitled to opt for alternative employment elsewhere in the hospital.
4. Dental surgeries in which anaesthetic gases and vapours are regularly used should also be scavenged.
5. The levels of these agents shown to be present in recovery areas adjacent to scavenged theatres do not appear to constitute a significant hazard, particularly if well ventilated.

(Report on Operating Theatre Atmospheric Pollution by Anaesthetic Gases and Vapours. N.H. & M.R.C. P.O. Box 100, A.C.T. 2606).

## MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE INTELLECTUALLY HANDICAPPED

A small but significant minority of intellectually handicapped persons, by virtue of the severity of their handicap and/or of the physical disability associated with it, do require nursing in a special environment with a hospital bias. The majority do not, and, in fact, such an environment is positively deleterious to their individual growth and development as human beings, and to their social behaviour and adaptiveness.

Normalisation is to create an existence for the mentally retarded as close to normal living conditions as possible, and is set against the theory of protection or over-protection. It operates in terms of equality. Integration is a method of implementing this principle, just as segregation was a method of implementing protectionism, and operates at the physical, functional and social levels. Group homes are the most common way of achieving integration. Normalisation is not to be confused with normality. The principle does not deny the rights of retarded persons to special services according to need. (Barlow D. Med. J. Aust. 1978, 2: 359-360).